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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. Leader of the Opposition that the Government do not discriminate between one union and another.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : If the Government do not discriminate, may I request the Hon. Minister to enlighten us as to the basis on which they allowed adjudication in the case of Mettur and denied adjudication in the case of Madurai?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : When I say that we do not discriminate between one union and another, I want the hon. Leader of the Opposition to understand that we put a different interpretation on the position in Mettur.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : The Minister referred to the Government interfering with the interpretation of the Tribunal. May I know whether the interpretation was given by a judicial tribunal or a quasi-judicial tribunal?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member is quite well aware of the constitution of the Industrial Tribunals and it is for him to judge whether they are judicial or quasi-judicial bodies.

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI : Is the Hon. Minister aware that even under the provisions of the existing Act, a union is considered to be representative if 25 per cent of the workers are members of it? In view of the fact that over 9,000 out of a total of 22,000 workers are members of these unions what is the criterion by which he considers that these unions are not representatives.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government considered that the quantum of bonus had been accepted by a substantial section of labour. When the Government were satisfied about this, they refused to refer the matter for further adjudication. That is how the Government decided not to refer this matter for adjudication.

Houses for lower-income groups

* 125 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether this Government have received any communication from the Centre during June 1956 with regard to the construction of houses for lower-income groups in this State;

(*b*) whether this Government have submitted any report to the Centre in respect of it; and

(*c*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) to (*c*) Several communications have been received from the Government of India relating to construction of houses under the Low-Income Group

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Housing Scheme. The hon. Member is requested to put a separate question specifying the point on which information is required.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Last year the Central Government allotted to our State about Rs. 46 lakhs for the construction of houses under this scheme, while the Madras Government utilized only about Rs. 18 lakhs. May I know whether this Government asked the Central Government to give them the amount that they left unutilized?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I would like to have notice.

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : Is it a fact that large amounts of money earmarked for building houses for the lower-income staff of the municipalities and local boards remained idle under the First Five-Year Plan and have the Government any proposal to direct the local authorities to take up the schemes and not allow the money to lapse?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It must be no doubt correct to say that the entire allotment for housing has not been utilized. There are so many difficulties in the way of utilizing the allotment and merely issuing of orders to local bodies to proceed with the scheme will not serve any useful purpose. I may tell the hon. Member that the Government are equally anxious to utilize the entire allotment for the low-income group housing scheme, especially in view of the shortage of houses. The Government have recently held a conference and discussion and are taking all possible steps to expedite the construction of houses under the Low-Income Group Housing Scheme.

SRI V. S. SIVAPRAKASAM : Under this scheme of housing for low-income groups, may I know, whether, apart from the Co-operative Building Societies, individual persons in rural areas are also eligible for long-term loans for construction of houses, and, if so, the maximum limit of loan that can be granted?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : In the National Extension Service and Community Development areas, individuals are given aid up to 50 per cent for small houses, perhaps ranging from Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : From the answer of the Hon. Minister it is clear that the entire provision made for the construction of houses under the Low-Income Group Housing Scheme has not been utilized. When the City Improvement Trust and the Corporation of Madras drew up schemes and approached the Government for loan, how is it that the Government refused to comply with all their requests? For instance, the work in Trustpuram in Kodambakkam has been held up for want of help from the Government?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : About this specific question, I would like to have notice. But I may tell him that this Government have been liberally extending its aid and also the aid given by the Government of India for construction of houses, to the City Improvement Trust and other organizations. The Government have to find funds also for the construction of houses in the rural areas also.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : What are the difficulties experienced by the Government in utilizing the full allotment and what are the measures taken by the Government to overcome those difficulties?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The difficulties experienced by the Government are the difficulties met with by the co-operative house construction societies in rural areas and also by the local bodies.

SRI M. PALANIYANDI : வீடு கட்டும் திட்டத்தில் நமது சென்னை அரசாங்கம் மிதமாக இருக்கிறது என்று பாராளு மன்றத்தில் காங்கிரஸ் அங்கத்தினர்களும், மற்ற உறுப்பினர்களும் பல தடவை பேசி வருகிறார்கள். இது கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியுமா? அப்படியானால், நமது அரசாங்கம் குறைந்த வருமான வகுப்பு மக்களுக்கு வீடு கட்டிக்கொடுக்கும் திட்டத்திலும் இண்டஸ்ட்ரியல் ஹவுஸிங் திட்டத்திலும் ஏன் அதிக அக்கறை காட்டக்கூடாது? அப்படிச் செய்து கட்டடத் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் பண உதவி அளிப்பார்களா என்றும் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : இந்த சட்டசபைக்கு வெளியே உள்ள அபிப்பிராயங்களைப்பற்றி நான் அதிகமாக கவனிப்பதில்லை, கருதுவதில்லை. கனம் அங்கத்தினருக்கு மீண்டும் சொல்கிறேன். "இது விஷயத்தில் கனம் அங்கத்தினருக்கு எவ்வளவு கவலை இருக்கிறதோ அவ்வளவு கவலை இந்த அரசாங்கத்திற்கும் இருக்கிறது. சர்க்கார் எல்லா நடவடிக்கைகளும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டுதான் வருகிறது."

9-10 a.m. SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Sir, the Hon. Minister may be aware that it is impossible for the persons drawing low-income to construct houses of their own. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government have got any proposal or intention to construct blocks of houses for housing these low-income groups?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government consider that it is not a practical proposition so far as the rural areas are concerned. I may also tell the hon. Member that in those rural parts in the National Extension areas, people had come forward and taken advantage of the fifty per cent aid extended by the Government by way of loan. They have even been constructing houses costing five hundred to seven hundred rupees or even one thousand rupees.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Sir, will this Government at least increase the slab of loan advanced to Non-Gazetted Officers to enable them to utilize fully the grants given by the Government of India?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Notice, Sir.

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SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Sir, several municipalities have been asking for loans for putting up houses for lower-income groups in many places, including for instance the Tellicherry Municipality, of which I have definite information. Would the Government for Heaven's sake take a liberal and quick decision in this matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : We do not know the requirements of Heaven. (Laughter.) The Government not only do take a liberal attitude, but they are quite anxious that local bodies should be enabled to construct houses. But when the Government decide on the question of the quantum of loan to the local bodies, they have also to examine the capacity of the local bodies to repay the loan.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Sir, as far as my information goes, Narath village panchayat and Pappinisseri village panchayat, which come under the National Extension Scheme of Taliparamba, have applied for aid to the Government for constructing some houses for the poor Harijans whose houses were demolished by the recent floods. May I know whether the Government have conceded their demand and, if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member will kindly give notice of a separate question.

SRI A. IYANAR : ஏழைகளுக்கு வீடு கட்டும் திட்டம் ஆரம்பிக்கும் வரை பங்களாக்கள் கட்டுவதற்கு கடன் கொடுப்பதை நிறுத்தி வைக்க அரசாங்கம் உத்தேசிக்குமா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : பங்களா கட்டக்கூடிய பெரிய மனிதர்களுக்கு கடன் உதவி செய்யவேண்டுமென்ற பிரச்னையே இல்லை. ரொம்ப ஏழைகளாக இருப்பவர்கள் வீடு கட்டிக்கொள்வதற்கு வேண்டிய உதவி அளிக்கவேண்டும் என்பதில்தான் அரசாங்கம் தீவிர கவனம் செலுத்திவருகிறது.

SRI R. KRISHNASWAMI NAIDU : கிராமங்களிலுள்ள ஆதாரப் பள்ளி ஆசிரியர்களுக்கு அந்தப் பள்ளிகளை நடத்திவரும் மானேஜ்மெண்டார் நிரந்தரமாக வாசஸ்தலங்கள் கட்டுவதற்கு இந்தத் தொகையிலிருந்து உதவி கேட்டால், மான்யமாகவும் கடனாகவும் அரசாங்கம் உதவி செய்வதற்கு திட்டத்தில் ஏதாவது இடம் இருக்கிறதா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : கடன் கொடுப்பதைப் பரிசீலனை செய்யலாம்.

Amber Charka

* 126 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to open Amber Charka centres in the State;

(*b*) if so, the number of Amber Charkas that would be introduced in the State ;